

Amendments to the Specification

- 1) Please insert the following title on page 1, line 1:

Plasma cutting torch electrode with an Hf/Zr insert

- 2) Please insert the following paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3:

This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a) and (b) 1 to French Application No. 0303185, filed March 14, 2003, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

- 3) Please insert the following subtitles:

At page 1, after the above-referenced paragraph:

Background of the Invention

1. Field of the Invention

At page 1, line 7:

2. Related Art

At page 2, line 27:

Summary of the Invention

At page 3, line 12:

Description of Preferred Embodiments

- 4) Please add the following paragraph to page 3, line 11:

Brief Description of the Drawings

For a further understanding of the nature and objects for the present invention, reference should be made to the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like elements are given the same or analogous reference numbers and wherein:

- Figure 1 illustrates a longitudinal sectional view of an electrode in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.
- Figure 2 illustrates a longitudinal sectional view of an electrode in accordance with one alternative embodiment of the present invention.

- 5) Please add the following paragraph to page 5, line 41:

It will be understood that many additional changes in the details, materials, steps and arrangement of parts, which have been herein described in order to explain the nature of the invention, may be made by those skilled in the art within the principle and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the specific embodiments in the examples given above.

- 6) Please delete page 8 in its entirety.

- 7) Please add to a new page 8, starting at line 1, the following subtitle and paragraph:

Abstract of the Disclosure

An emissive electrode insert formed from an alloy containing hafnium and zirconium. The insert typically contains at least about 80% hafnium by weight and about 0.1 to about 8% zirconium by weight. The invention also relates to a plasma torch electrode formed from an electrode body with a cavity into which such an emissive insert is fitted, to a plasma torch utilizing such an electrode, and to a plasma cutting process for cutting a steel workpiece, in which such a plasma torch is employed.